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## CZECHOSLOVAK FORESTRY PROBLEMS

Engr V. Borovoy, writing in Lesnoye Khozyaystvo for March 1950, uses the following table to show the distribution of forests in Czechoslovakia.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Forests</u> (1,000 ha)	<u>Forests</u> (% of total area)	<u>Annual</u> <u>Increment</u> (1,000 cu m)
Bohemia	1,560	30	4,700
Moravia, Silesia	790	29	3,300
Czech Prov	2,350	30	8,000
Slovakia	1,650	34	5,500
entire country	4,000	31	13,500

The annual wood increment is 3.45 cubic meters per hectare of forests in Czechoslovakia, as compared with the European average of 1.61 cubic meters. Softwood forests, especially spruce, are predominant, as they cover 46 percent of all Czechoslovak forest areas; hardwood forests cover 26 percent, and mixed forests 13.6 percent of the total forest area, with the rest covered with scrub. The largest softwood forests are located in the Czech Provinces, while hardwood forests are located predominantly in Slovakia. The hardwood forests are mainly oaks and beeches, which are approximately evenly distributed. A large portion of Slovakia's forests is located on steep hillsides and cut off from railroads.

Before the war, 40 million more cubic meters of wood were cut than would have been permitted by the reserves of the country. In addition, 17 million cubic meters were destroyed by fire and insects. During the German occupation the Czechoslovak economy lost another 26 million cubic meters of wood. The Germans left 100,000 hectares of almost completely denuded area. In order to make up these losses by natural means, forest exploitation would have to be stopped for 10 years.

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Since softwood and finished wooden goods are important export items, the Ligna Lumber Export Enterprise has been established.

In 1947 about 32,500 hectares of forest were planted. Tree nurseries are to be expanded by 1,732 hectares.

Czechoslovakia has a number of forestry institutes. The Institutes for Forest Preservation in Prague fights insects by means of airplanes. The Institute for Forest Biochemistry and Soil Science studies the chemical and biochemical properties and changes of forest soils, as well as reclamation problems. The Institute for the Cultivation of Forests and Forest Biology in Brno examines forest seed problems and the cultivation of fast-growing species of trees, and also acclimatizes exotic species. The Institute for Forest Exploitation and Forest Technology is concerned with the perservation of lumber, as well as with producing cellulose from beech wood and studying new methods of sawing. The Institute for Forest Economy and Taxation in Brno works on technical and organizational problems of forestry and on taxation methods; it is also interested in methods for calculating wood increment. The Institute for Forest Policy and Administration studies general questions concerning forest economy and wood cutting. There is also an Institute for Hunting.

All of these institutes are in the Czech Provinces and cooperate closely with the corresponding institutes in Slovakia.

The 1948 land reform, which limited private ownership to 50 hectares, included forest property. Consequently, the government confiscated one million hectares of forests in the frontier regions which used to be in the Sudetenland and another 250,000 hectares in other parts of the country. The Czechoslovak State Forests were established as a government enterprise in December 1948. The wood-cutting plan for the first half of 1948 was fulfilled by 115 percent.

The following table shows the production plan of the Five-Year Plan, in millions of cubic meters.

<u>Product</u>	<u>Softwood</u>	<u>Hardwood</u>
Unpeeled logs - total	40.0	15.0
Round timber	24.0	3.2
Railroad ties	0.02	1.6
Mine timber	3.4	--
Fibrous round timber	7.7	1.1
Telegraph poles, etc.	0.6	0.2
Lumber	0.1	0.4
Fuelwood	4.18	8.5

The planned extraction of timber does not exceed the annual forest increment. Exploitation should be carried out so that 22,800 hectares of unmixed forest will be replaced by mixed forest. For the protection of fields, 76,000 hectares of forests are scheduled to be planted in unforested areas.

The following table shows the forestation plan, in thousands of hectares.

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<u>Purpose</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
To normalize production	30.4	31.8
To control erosion	1.5	1.54
For afforestation	2.0	2.0
Total	33.9	35.34

The reforestation plan was fulfilled 118 percent in 1947 and 108 percent in 1948; the afforestation plan 116 percent in 1947 and 156 percent in 1948.

There are 231,000 hectares of gaps in forests which are to be filled, according to the 1949 - 1953 Five-Year Plan.

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